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REMARKS

Independent claims 1 and 11 and dependent claims 4, 7, 14 and 17 have been amended without adding new matter in order to correct minor informalities and to address other issues raised by the Examiner. Twenty (20) claims remain pending in the application: Claims 1-20. Reconsideration of claims 1-20 in view of the amendments above and remarks below is respectfully requested.

By way of this amendment, Applicants have made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain any outstanding issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned at (858) 552-1311 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

The Office Action Summary indicates that the Specification is objected to by the Examiner. However, the Detailed Action fails to identify the objectionable portions of the Specification. Applicants note that the Specification has not been amended. If the Examiner has objections to the Specification, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner identify those portions so that the Applicants can accurately address the objections.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §112

1. Claims 4, 7, 14, and 17 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 112, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. The Examiner has rejected method claims 4 and 7, and system claims 14 and 17, suggesting that the Specification of the subject application fails to enable one skilled in the art to "display a menu having an option that facilitates configuration of said input device." (Office Action, Page 2). However, the Examiner continues on Page 2 of the office action stating that the Specification at "[p]age 7, lines 17-26 and page 8, lines 1-26 of the disclosure states that the displaying of a menu having an option that facilitates configuration of the input device is a setup procedure" (Office Action, page 2, emphasis added). The Examiner has contradicted his rejection and further demonstrated that the disclosure does teach "displaying a menu having an option that facilitates configuration of the input device."

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It appears that the Examiner is objecting to the claim language because the actions of the method claim 4, for example, do not appear to be in an order as suggested according to the Specification in describing examples of some embodiments. Applicants respectfully submit that the actions of a method claim do not have to be in a specific sequence.

To speed prosecution of the application, however, Applicants have amended claims 4, 7, 14 and 17 in an attempt to clarify the claims. These amendments have not been made for reasons of patentability, but have instead been incorporated to further clarify these claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103

2. Claims 1, 6, 9-11, 16, 19 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being obvious over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US2002/0056112 (Dureau et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,883,680 (Nykerk). Applicants submit, however, that amended claims 1 and 11 are not anticipated by the combination of the Dureau and Nykerk references. More specifically, amended claim 1 for example recites in part:

configuring an input device to operate in a first mode that suspends transmission of all channel selection input control information entered via said input device, to the entertainment system.

As such, amended claim 1 provides, in part, for the configuration of an input device to operate in a first mode, and further for the configuration of the input device to operate in the first mode that suspends transmission of all channel section input control information. Claim 11 includes similar claim language where a "central processing unit [executes] software to configure an input device to operate in a first mode that suspends transmission of all channel selection input control information." Neither the Dureau nor the Nykerk references teach or suggest configuring the input device to operate in a first mode, or to operate in a first mode to suspend transmission of all channel selection input control information. Further, the Nykerk reference specifically teaches away from the configuring of an input device to operate in a first mode to suspend transmission of all of the channel selection input control information.

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The Examiner has specifically indicated in the Office Action that the Dureau reference "fails to disclose wherein the input device is configured to operate in a first mode that suspends transmission of input control information" (Office Action, page 3). Further, Applicants respectfully submit that the Nykerk reference also fails to teach at least the configuring of an input device to operate in a first mode to suppress transmission of all channel selection information, and instead teaches away from suppressing the transmission of all channel selection information.

More specifically, the Nykerk reference limits the locking of keys to only specific, predefined keys ("network keys 50" or "channel group keys 52", see Nykerk, Col. 12, lines 17 and 18), and specifically teaches away from locking other channel selection keys. The Nykerk reference instead provides that the remote control device operates normally other than for those specifically predefined keys that have been purposely selected by the user to be locked. For example, column 12, lines 36-39, of the Nykerk reference describes "the remote control device 10 functions as described above, except that any depression of keys that have been locked out will be ignored by the remote control device 10." Therefore, the Nykerk reference specifically teaches that the other channel selection keys (e.g., channel up key 56, channel down key 58, channel number keys 54, as well as other non-locked pre-labeled network keys 50 or the channel group keys 52) continue to operate normally so that the remote control device can continue to be used to transmit channel selection input control information.

The intended purpose of the Nykerk reference is to provide the locking of specifically defined keys so that parents can "'lock out' channel numbers that provide programming having an 'adult' content, such as violence, nudity, profanity or the like," while still allowing users to select non-locked channels. (Nykerk, col. 12, lines 22-24). This allows children and other users to continue to use the remote control to access all channels by having the remote control device transmit channel selection control information, except for those few specifically locked out channels.

Alternatively, the present embodiments as recited in amended claims 1 and 11, in part, prevent the transmitting of all channel selection input control information. One of the

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advantages achieved by locking out all of the channel selection input is that a child and/or other user cannot interfere with the viewing of a currently selected channel. There is no suggestion in Nykerk to provide the locking out of all channel selection control information. The Nykerk reference fails to suggest any benefit for locking out all channel selection control information. Alternatively, the Nykerk reference specifically teaches away from locking out all channel section input. One skilled in the art would not appreciate the benefits provided by locking out all channel selection control information in view of the Nykerk reference or view of the combination of the Dureau and Nykerk references. The method and system as recited in amended claims 1 and 11 are not obvious over the combined reference. Alternatively, the applied references teach away from the method and system as recited in claims 1 and 11. Therefore, amended claims 1 and 11 are not obvious over the combination of the Dureau and Nykerk references.

Claims 9 and 19 have also been rejected over the combination of the Dureau and Nykerk references. As described above, however, neither the Dureau nor the Nykerk references suggest configuring the input device to operate in the first mode that suspends transmission of all channel section input control information as recited in claims 1 and 11, and further fails to suggest "terminating transmission of all input control information to said entertainment system entered via said input device" as recited in claim 9 and similar language as recited in claim 19. Again, the Nykerk reference only describes "locking" predefined keys of the remote control while intentionally allowing at least other channel selection control information to be transmitted. The Nykerk reference specifically teaches away from the methods and systems of claims 9 and 19, respectively. Therefore, the combination of the Dureau and Nykerk references fail to teach or make claims 9 and 19 obvious.

Claims 10 and 20 have also been rejected over the combination of the Dureau and Nykerk references. Claims 10 and 20, however, depend from claims 9 and 19, respectively. Therefore, claims 10 and 20 are also not obvious over the applied combination of Dureau and Nykerk for at least the reasons provided above for claims 1, 9, 11 and 19.

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3. Claims 2, 3, 12 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being obvious over the combination of the Dureau and Nykerk references in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,111,518 (Han). Applicants respectfully submit, however, that amended claims 1 and 11 are not anticipated by the combination of the Dureau and Nykerk references, and the Han reference also fails to make claims 1 and 11 obvious. As demonstrated above, the Dureau and Nykerk references fail to teach or make obvious at least the configuring of the "input device to operate in a first mode that suspends transmission of all channel selection input control information entered via said input device, to the entertainment system" as recited in claim 1 (and similar language in claim 11). The Han reference also fails to teach or suggest configuring an input device. Alternatively, the Han reference describes a television receiver that cuts-off the reception of remote control signals from the remote controller. Therefore, the Han reference also fails to teach or suggest the configuring of an input device, and thus claims 2, 3, 12 and 13 are also not obvious over the Han reference for at least the reasons provided above.

4. The Examiner has further rejected claims 4 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being obvious over the combination of the Dureau and Nykerk references in further view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US2001/0010095 (Ellis et al.). The combination of the Dureau, Nykerk and Ellis references, however, fails to teach or suggest the methods or systems as recited in amended claims 4 and 14. As demonstrated above, the Dureau and Nykerk references fail to make obvious at least the configuring of the "input device to operate in a first mode that suspends transmission of all channel selection input control information entered via said input device, to the entertainment system" as recited in claim 1 (or similar language in claim 11). The Ellis reference also fails to teach or suggest configuring an input device as recited in claims 1 and 11. Alternatively, the Ellis reference describes a channel guide displayed on a television and does not describe configuring an input device. Thus, the applied references fail to make claim 4 or 14 obvious.

Further, the Ellis reference fails to teach at least "displaying a menu having at least one option that facilitates configuration of said input device..." as recited in claims 4 and

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14. Alternatively, the Ellis reference only describes in the portions cited by the Examiner as displaying functions that are similar to functions provided on a remote control. None of the displayed functions allow or suggest allowing the configuring of a remote control. Therefore, the Ellis reference does not teach or suggest at least the "displaying a menu ... that facilitates configuration of said input device..." as recited in claims 4 and 14, and thus the combination of Dureau, Nykerk and Ellis fail to make claims 4 and 14 obvious.

Still further, one skilled in the art would not combine the Dureau reference or the Nykerk reference with the Ellis reference as the Ellis reference is related to different subject matter. Specifically, the Ellis reference is directed to the displaying of a program guide. Alternatively, the Dureau and Nykerk references are directed to remote devices. One skilled in the art would not refer to the Ellis reference in relation to the Dureau or Nykerk references because the Ellis reference is non-analogous art. The Ellis reference provides no motivation to combine with the Dureau and Nykerk references. Therefore, one skilled in the art would not combine the applied references, and one skilled in the art would not be motivated to "displaying a menu having at least one option that facilitates configuration of said input device..." as recited in amended claims 4 and 14.

5. Similarly, the Examiner has rejected claims 7 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being obvious over the combination of the Dureau and Nykerk references in further view of the Ellis reference. The combination of the applied references fails to teach or suggest at least the configuring of the "input device to operate in a first mode that suspends transmission of all channel selection input control information entered via said input device, to the entertainment system" as recited in claim 1 (or similar language in claim 11). Alternatively, the combined references teach away from the rejected claims. Therefore, the combination of the applied references fails to teach or make amended claims 7 and 17 obvious.

Further as demonstrated above, the Ellis reference fails to teach at least "displaying a menu having at least one option that facilitates configuration of said input

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device...," as recited in amended claims 7 and 17. Therefore, the combination of Ellis with the Dureau and Nykerk references fails to make amended claims 7 and 17 obvious.

Still further, as demonstrated above, one skilled in the art would not be motivated to combine the Ellis reference with the Dureau and Nykerk references. Therefore, one skilled in the art would not incorporate a menu as described in the Ellis reference with the home digital assistant of the Dureau reference or the remote control device of the Nykerk reference, and thus amended claims 7 and 17 are not obvious over the applied references.

6. Claims 5, 8, 15 and 18 have also been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being obvious over the combination of the Dureau, Nykerk and Ellis references in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,137,539 (Lownes et al.). The combination of applied references, however, fails to teach or suggest the methods or systems as recited in amended claims 5, 8, 15 and 19. As demonstrated above, the Dureau, Nykerk and Ellis references fail make obvious at least the configuring of the "input device to operate in a first mode that suspends transmission of all channel selection input control information entered via said input device, to the entertainment system" as recited in claim 1 (or similar language in claim 11). The Lownes reference also fails to teach or suggest configuring an input device as recited in claims 1 and 11. Alternatively, the Lownes reference describes displaying a channel status on a television. Thus, the applied references fail to teach or make claims 5, 8, 15 and 18 obvious.

Further, one skilled in the art would not combine the Dureau reference or the Nykerk reference with the Lownes reference as the Lownes reference is related to different subject matter. Specifically, the Lownes reference is directed to the displaying of program or VCR status information on a television. There is no suggestion in Lownes that the status be applied to an input device, nor does Lownes suggest configuring an input device. One skilled in the art would not refer to the Lownes reference in relation with at least the Dureau and Nykerk references because the Lownes reference is directed to unrelated technology. Therefore, one skilled in the art would not combine the applied references, and thus one skilled in the art would

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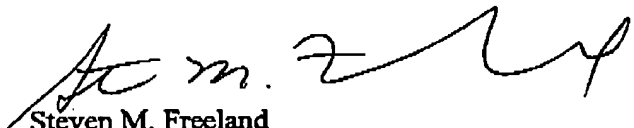
not incorporate the displaying of a status key or a message indicator with the Dureau or Nykerk reference as recited in claims 5 and 15, and 8 and 18, respectively.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that the above amendments and remarks place the pending claims in a condition for allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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